Forest (Conservation) Act while proposing cases of diversion of Forest land, in view of procedural delays causing hardships to tribals. While such requests are kept in mind, other issues of importances such as conservation of forests, prevention of fragmentation of forest land, need for increasing agricultural production etc. are also considered before taking decision on such proposals. Besides, revised and comprehensive Rules and Guide Lines have been formulated by decentralising the process of decision taking and rationalising procedures and requirements to streamline disposal of cases.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cutting of the Mango Trees in Uttar Pradesh

1052. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mango growers association in Lucknow, Malihabad and Kakori in Uttar Pradesh and in other States have requested the Government to free them from Forest Act so as to cut the Mango trees and use the area for cultivation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and problems of Mango growers taking such decision to change the mango belt into farming land;

(c) what steps has been taken by Government to save the mango belts from being turned into agricultural area in Uttar pradesh and in other States of the country;

(d) whether any assurances has been given to the Mango growers in the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No representation has been received from any mango-growers association, either through State Governments or directly, with a request to free them from Forest Act so as to cut Mango trees and use the area for cultivation. Felling of trees on private land does not come under the purview of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In order to regulate the felling and replanting of trees on private lands, a number of States including Uttar Pradesh have enacted State Legislations like the Tree Protection Act, Tree Preservation Act etc. under which cutting of certain trees is regulated.

Species of Plants

1053. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of 195 species of rare and endangered plants which have been recently included in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants volume III;

(b) what is the total number of such plants in the Red Data Book; and

(c) what is being done to preserve these species ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The names of the 195 species of rare and endangered plants that have been included in the Red Data Book of Indian Plants (volume-III) published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in 1990 are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CL XVIII, Annexure No. 23]

(b) A total of 620 plants have been included in the three published volumes of the Red Data Book of Indian Plants.

(c) The measures taken to preserve these species include the following :

(i) Establishment of a network of protected areas as National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves for protection of the flora and fauna including threatened species;

(ii) Enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which, after the amendment in 1991, includes endangered plants and which now provides strict penalties for infringement;

(iii) Restriction on commercial exploitation and export of endangered species through regulations in pursuance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(iv) Ex-situ conservation of endangered